Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : File

DATE: 9 March 1953

FROM : A [redacted]

SUBJECT: Spiro-Oxy-Barbiturate

1. After the writer's visit to [redacted] and [redacted] in mid-December 1952, the writer turned over his information on Spiro-Oxy-Barbiturate to the Medical Division both informally in a conversation with [redacted] and formally in a memorandum addressed to [redacted] dated 7 January 1953.

2. Consequently, in a conversation between [redacted] and [redacted] gave the full details of the unusual potentialities of Spiro-Oxy-Barbiturate to [redacted] expressed immediate interest and stated he would direct people in his organization to determine what properties caused the unusual activities associated with this drug and further stated these people would immediately get in touch with the [redacted] where he stated he has very close connections.

3. Approximately two weeks ago in a conference between [redacted] and [redacted] stated that the information on Spiro-Oxy-Barbiturate had proven very interesting and results had come to the [redacted] from different parts of the United States which further support the results reported by [redacted] after his conversations with [redacted] at [redacted]. At this point, [redacted] seemed to think that the Spiro-Oxy-Barbiturate was interesting and deserved serious research and he informed the writer such research was being carried out and would be carried out in connection with this drug.

A [redacted]

[redacted]

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[redacted]

CHEMICAL WARFARE - UNITED STATES

PSYCHOCHEMICAL AGENTS:

Derivatives of ergot such as lysergic acid amide, derivatives of marijuana (cannabine), mescaline and its derivatives, are being studied as a basis for the synthesis of candidate psychochemical agents. These substances have in common the ability to produce hallucinations and mental aberrations. The greatest difficulty in this group of agents has been the establishment of suitable screening techniques. An active contract program to this end is being prosecuted with the [redacted] and with the [redacted]

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NATURALLY OCCURING TOXINS:

This group includes shell fish poison, puffer fish poison and the mushroom poisons from Amanita muscaria. Material is collected from the natural sources, concentrated and purified, Attempts are then made to determine structure. If these compounds turn out to be sufficiently simple synthesis will be attempted. Work on this group of toxins is being done under contract with the [redacted] and [redacted] for shell fish poison, and with [redacted], for the mushroom poisons. Search for toxic compounds in this as well as other fields is being amplified under contract with [redacted] subcontracts include studies of puffer fish toxin at the [redacted] and at [redacted]

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(from; [redacted] TECHNICAL ESTIMATES of the [redacted] 8 April 1953, [redacted]

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[redacted]